

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 AGR-20 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (AMEMBASSY ROME ADDED AS INFORMATION
ADDRESSEE)

PASS AGRICULTURE

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAGR, EEC

SUBJ: MAY 14-15 EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

(AGRICULTURAL) MEETING

REF: A. EC BRUSSELS 2684 B. EC BRUSSELS 1137;

C. EC BRUSSELS 2370; D. EC BRUSSELS 2410.

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1. SUMMARY. THE EC COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS MET IN BRUSSELS ON MAY 14-15, PARTLY IN JOINT SESSIONS ON MEDITERRANEAN POLICY WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTERS. DURING THESE BRIEF JOINT MINISTERIALS, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPING, ON THE BASIS OF COMMISSION PROPOSALS, THE COMMUNITY POSITION ON THE AGRICULTURAL ASPECTS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN POLICY. WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THAT POLICY, ITALY PRESENTED A MEMORANDUM SETTING FORTH ITS POSITION ON TARIFF PREFERENCES FOR FRESH AND PROCESSED CITRUS (REF A). THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED, BUT DID NOT REACH ANY AGREEMENT ON, THE PROPOSED MINIMUM IMPORT PRICE SYSTEM FOR CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES OR ON THE PROPOSED CAP FOR ALCOHOL. END SUMMARY.

2. IN TWO BRIEF JOINT SESSIONS OF THE AGRICULTURAL AND FOREIGN MINISTERS, IT WAS ESSENTIALLY AGREED THAT THE AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPING, ON THE BASIS OF COMMISSION PROPOSALS, THE COMMUNITY POSITION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF AGRICULTURAL TARIFF PREFERENCES FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES. A FURTHER JOINT MINISTERIAL MEETING ON MEDITERRANEAN POLICY IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 5 IN LUXEMBOURG.

3. PRIOR TO THE MEETING, IT WAS ANTICIPATED THAT THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL ON MINIMUM IMPORT PRICES FOR CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES (REF B), WHICH FORMS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE COMMISSION'S IDEAS ON PREFERENTIAL TARIFF CONCESSIONS FOR CITRUS JUICES, WOULD BE DISCUSSED IN THE JOINT SESSIONS. HOWEVER, THIS WAS NOT THE CASE SINCE THE AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS WERE UNABLE TO PROGRESS TOWARDS AGREEMENT ON THE PROPOSAL. THE COUNCIL APPARENTLY COULD NOT AGREE EITHER ON THE SPECIAL MEASURES (I. E., MINIMUM IMPORT PRICES) FOR THE SO- CALLED SENSITIVE PRODUCTS OR THE PRODUCTS TO BE DESIGNATED AS SENSITIVE. ITALY, TENDED TO FAVOR PROCESSING SUBSIDIES IN LIEU OF MINIMUM IMPORT PRICES. FRANCE DEFINITELY FAVORED MINIMUM IMPORT PRICES BUT CALCULATED NOT ON THE BASIS OF WORLD MARKET PRICES (AS PROPOSED BY THE COMMISSION), BUT ON THE BASIS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAST COMMUNITY PRICES. THE SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE WILL CONTINUE ITS STUDY OF THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL.

4. ALSO WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF MEDITERRANEAN POLICY, ITALY SUBMITTED A MEMORANDUM SETTING FORTH ITS POSITION

ON TARIFF PREFERENCES FOR FRESH AND PROCESSED CITRUS FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES. THE CONTENTS OF THIS MEMORANDUM HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN REF A.

5. FOLLOWING WHAT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS A LARGELY FRUITLESS DISCUSSION, THE PROPOSED CAP FOR ALCOHOL WAS RETURNED TO THE SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER STUDY. GODBER, THE BRITISH MINISTER, CALLED THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL QUOTE COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE UNQUOTE. THE BRITISH, AND ALSO THE DUTCH, OBJECT TO THE PROPOSED DIVISION OF MARKETS FOR AGRICULTURAL AND SYNTHETIC ALCOHOL WHICH, THEY BELIEVE, WILL ENCOURAGE AN UNDESIRABLE INCREASE IN PRODUCTION OF AGRICULTURAL ALCOHOL AT THE EXPENSE OF SYNTHETIC ALCOHOL. DENMARK SUGGESTED A SYSTEM OF DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS FOR AGRICULTURAL ALCOHOL PRODUCTION IN PLACE OF SUPPORT PRICES.

6. THE COUNCIL DID AGREE ON ACCESSION COMPENSATORY AMOUNTS FOR CAULIFLOWER AND TOMATOES. IT ALSO TRADED BETWEEN THE SIX AND THE NEW MEMBER STATES. FORMALLY APPROVED A LARGE NUMBER OF REGULATIONS ON THE 1973/74 CAP PRICES FOR GRAINS, TOBACCO, ETC. WHICH HAD BEEN AGREED UPON IN PRINCIPLE ON MAY 1 (REFS C AND D).

7. ITALY REQUESTED THAT BEEF AND VEAL BE EXEMPTED FROM MONETARY COMPENSATORY AMOUNTS. THE COMMISSION MAY SOON PRESENT A PROPOSED REGULATION PROVIDING FOR SUCH AN EXEMPTION.

8. THE COUNCIL (AG MINS) WILL HOLD TWO MEETINGS IN JUNE, BOTH IN LUXEMBOURG. THE FIRST MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON JUNE 5 (WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTERS) AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE SECOND ON JUNE 18-19. GREENWALD

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